

## BIRDS.

*January 14th.*

1. Chaffinch.
2. House Sparrow.
3. Blue-Tit.
4. Great-Tit.
5. Cole-Tit.
6. Missel-Thrush.
7. Hedge-Sparrow.
8. Jackdaw.
9. Blackbird.
10. Robin.
11. Starling.
12. Rook.
13. Wren.

*January 15th.*

14. Fieldfare.
15. Dipper.

*January 16th.*

16. Pheasant.
17. Moor-Fowl.
18. Coot.
19. Dab-chick.
20. Jay.

*January 23rd.*

21. Magpie.

*January 25th.*

22. Carrion Crow.
23. Tree-Creeper.
24. Black-headed Gull.
25. Black-backed Gull.

*January 30th.*

26. Golden-Crested Wren

*January 31st.*

27. Long-Tailed Tit.

*February 4th.*

28. Redwing.
29. Wood-Pigeon.

*February 9th.*

30. Golden-eye.

*February 12th.*

31. Raven.
32. Herring-Gull.

*February 16th.*

33. Bullfinch.

*February 17th.*

34. Pied Wagtail.

*February 25th.*

35. Grey Wagtail.

*February 26th.*

36. Peewit.

*February 21st.*

37. Yellow Hammer.
38. Meadow Pippit.
39. Song Thrush.

*March 4th.*

40. Wood Owl.

*March 5th.*

41. Curlew.

## DERBYSHIRE NOTES.

March is doing its best to be January, April and itself rolled into one. High winds, snow, rain and warm sunshine take turn and turn about to enchant or harry us. Flower lists are small, and birds hide themselves. But there is always Pilkington.

I wonder if any of you know Pilkington's Derbyshire. I have just made his acquaintance, and we hope to be great friends in course of time. He takes a friendly interest in birds, beasts and flowers, and gives quaint details of all. He gives, as he says, "a compleat list of all the plants that grow spontaneously in the county, as well as those that are useful." He also provides a "list" of the wild birds of his date (1779). This is what he says, for example, of *Butterwort* or Yorkshire Sanicle.

"It is said that new milk, poured upon the fresh leaves in a strainer and set by a day or two, becomes stiff and tenacious, that it does not yield any whey and soon is converted into a very pleasant and wholesome food."

Of Water Horehound, *Sycopus europæus*.

It dyes black. The juice gives a permanent colour to linen, wool and silk. Travelling gipsies stain their faces with it.

*Cotton Grass.*

Poor people sometimes stuff their pillows with the down and make candle wicks with it.

*Quaking Grass.*

Cows, sheep and goats eat it.

If a seed be carefully dissected in a microscope with a fine lancet, the young plant will be found with its leaves and roots perfectly formed. (Does he mean viviparous grass?)

*Festuca fluitans. Flote Grass.*

Wet ponds and ditches.

The seeds are small but very sweet and nourishing. They are collected in several parts of Poland and Germany under the name of manna seeds, and are esteemed a delicacy in soups and gruel upon account of their nutritious quality and grateful flavour. (I like "grateful flavour." Please it is "my quote!")



When ground to meal they make bread very little inferior to that in common use from wheat. Geese are very fond of the seeds, and well know where to look for them.

*Dipsacus pullonum.* Wild Teazel.

In some parts of England this plant is cultivated for the use of clothiers, who employ the heads with crooked awns to raise the knaps upon woollen cloths. For this purpose they are fixed upon the circumference of a large broad wheel, and the cloth is held against them when it is turned round.

*Viper's bugloss.*

Cows and sheep are not fond of it. Horses and goats refuse it. Bees are fond of visiting the flowers, but their wings are sometimes injured by the strong hairs. *Anavallis arvensis.* Male pimpernel. Very common. The blossom is scarlet. Mr. Dickenson observes it is remarkable with what a sparing hand Nature has dealt out her richest and most glorious colour, for except this and the poppies, I do not recollect any indigenous plant of a scarlet colour.

This plant was much used by the ancient physicians in maniacal and melancholic cases, but is very little regarded in modern practice.

And so he goes on. If anyone is curious as to old stories of plants, the strange uses they have been put to, etc., let her consult Pilkington. He is delightfully gossipy and never dry.

Our flower list for mid-Derbyshire amounts only to twenty-five flowers so far; but this is a late county. Appended is a list for those whom it may interest.

White Poplar.

Primrose.

Alder (Staminate and Pistillate).

Barren Strawberry.

Whitlow Grass.

Bitter Cress.

Red dead nettle.

Adoxa.

Golden Saxifrage.

Dandelion.

Groundsel.

Com. Chickweed.

Shepherd's purse.

Colt's Foot.

Yew.

Lesser Celendine.

Snowdrop.

Wych Elm.

Dog's Mercury (Staminate and Pistillate).

Common Daisy.

Hazel (Staminate and Pistillate).

Goat Willow.

## STUDENTS' LETTER.

DEAR EX-STUDENTS,

We are quite a small household at present as there are only eight Juniors. The cubicles are all tenantless, and we have all been presented with an added number of gardens and of various duties. Such are some of the evils of being so few in number. The new monitresses are very zealous in their work, but we must not boast of that as we are all "new brooms." Mr. R. Kearton, the author of "Wild Nature's Ways," came to Ambleside a little while ago, and we all attended his lecture on birds in the Town Hall. We found the lecture thoroughly delightful, and we especially enjoyed his lantern slides, all reproduced from photographs.

We are sure you will all be sorry to hear that Mrs. Firth has been ill all this term. She is getting better now, but we have not been to her at all. We have also had very few cooking lessons as Miss Firth has not been able to leave her mother.

We have a very good hockey field now, where we can play three times a week, but the weather has been so bad that we have had very few games. We were all very much interested in the election. We went to a political meeting on the Education Question at the beginning of the term, and later on we had a political debate in the drawing-room. The Liberals among us are few in number but very enthusiastic. We discussed Protection and Free Trade and the Chinese Labour Question.

The Juniors made their début at a very amusing entertainment given at half term. They acted the scene out of "The Mill on the Floss," where Mrs. Pullet shows her bonnet to Mrs. Tulliver. This was followed by some songs, and then they gave us a short play entitled "Such is Fame," which was very funny. On the Saturday before half-term we had a fancy dress dance. There were several most original costumes, and some were honoured by being sketched

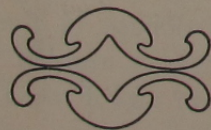


by Mr. Yates, who had given us his lecture on Millet that same evening, illustrated by some splendid lantern slides. Mrs. Franklin was staying here for half-term and came with us to Keswick, where we spent our half-term holiday. We had a delightful day there. Crosthwaite Church, the Pencil Factory and the Arts and Crafts Exhibition were among the places visited. The annual missionary bazaar is coming off on the 27th.

You have probably heard there is to be a Conference here next term of the heads of secondary schools. We are preparing "As You Like It" for the occasion, and we hope it will be fine enough to act it in the garden. Rehearsing the play and Sloyd divide our interest and our spare time this term. Bye-the-bye may we recommend Bath Brick to your notice as a most reliable help in removing ink-stains; we speak from experience.

Miss Smeeton, senior, has just left us to our great regret, but we are glad to say that we are keeping Miss Stainton with us to the end of the term. Miss Mason has been very well this term, and on the whole we have had very little illness.

THE SENIOR STUDENTS.



## POETRY CLUB.

*January 20th.* This was our first meeting for this year. A short life of Pope was read and then some selections from "The Essay on Man," the "Dunciad" and the "Rape of the Lock." The "Characteristics of Woman" afforded us much amusement. We also read "The Nun," the "Dying Christian to his Soul," and "To Autumn."

*February 3rd.* This evening was devoted to George Herbert. We had selections from Izaak Walton's life. Then several poems were read from the "Temple," including "The Church Porch," the "Pulley" and "Resignation."

*February 17th.* The attractions of Sloyd proved as usual too strong for the Seniors, and there was a very small attendance for the Herrick evening. After a short life of Herrick, we read such poems as "To Daffodils," "To Blossoms," "To Anthea," "The Litany of the Holy Spirit," "Corinna's Going A-Maying," "The Mad Maid's Song," "Gather ye Rosebuds."

*March 3rd.* The former President took the evening on Sir Philip Sydney. We were given some extracts from a very interesting life by Symmonds. We also read some of the Sonnets, but we suffered from a dearth of copies of the poems.

There are to be two more meetings this term, Moore on March 17th and Whittier on March 31st. The poets suggested for next term are:

Burns,	Kingsley,
Browning,	T. E. Brown,
Byron,	Hogg.